to waive inter-connectivity charges for e-Governance applications for e-Seva and other Government projects, in view of BSNL having raised a demand for payment of additional inter-connection charges in addition to leased lines cost by which e-Seva services would be adversely affected and functioning of e-Seva by Andhra Pradesh Government would become economically unviable;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) It was not possible for BSNL to agree to the request of Andhra Pradesh Government.

(c) Inter connection Charges are statutory charges and cannot be waived off. Further, any concession in leased line cost has to be across the board and BSNL did not find it feasible.

Upgradation of post offices in Tamil Nadu

3215. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATHCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Tamil Nadu proposed to be upgraded during this financial year, location-wise; and

(b) the number out of the above on which work has already been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No target has been fixed for upgradation of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu during this financial year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Shortage of staff in Post Offices

3216. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of clerical staff, postmen and other junior supporting staff in the post offices in Delhi;